

BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



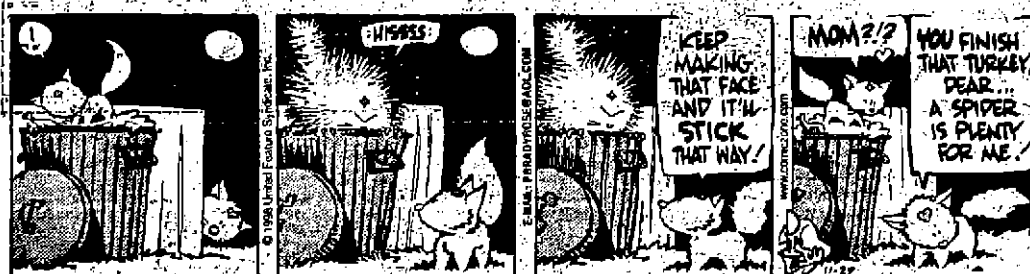
9 CHICKWEED LANE



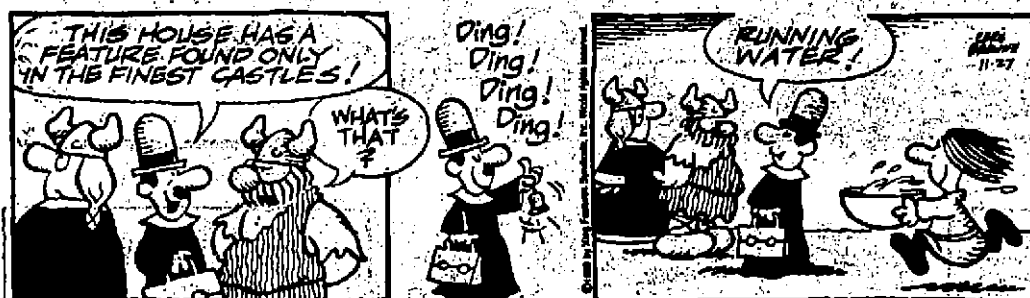
ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



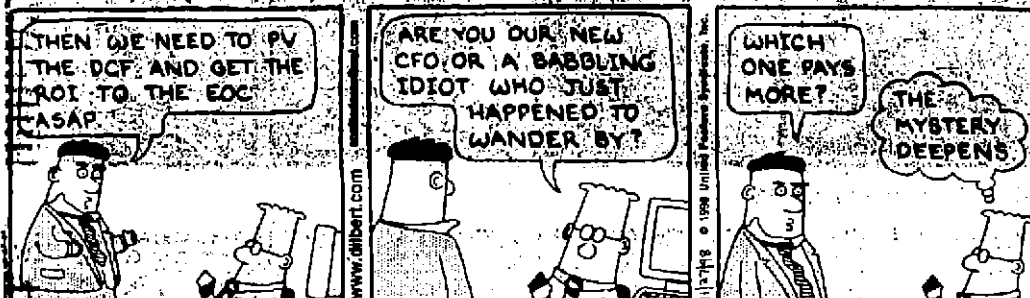
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



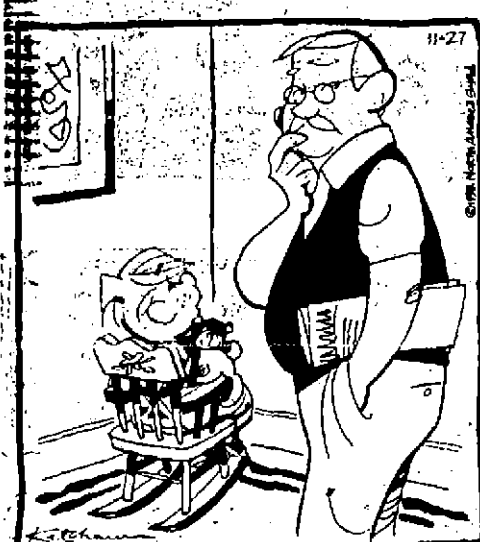
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



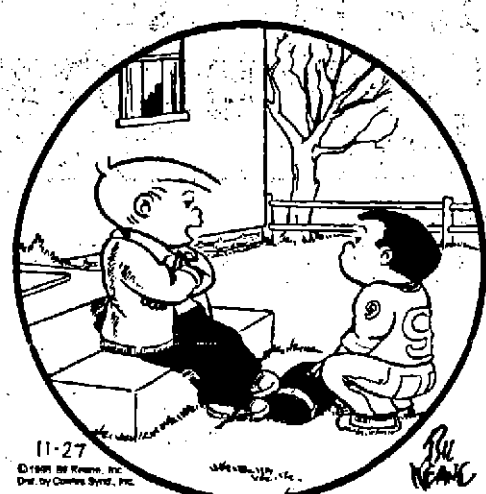
DILBERT



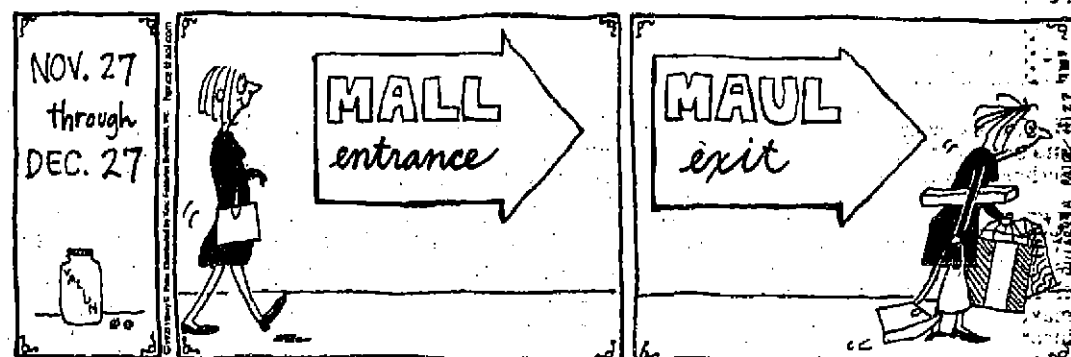
DENNIS THE MENACE



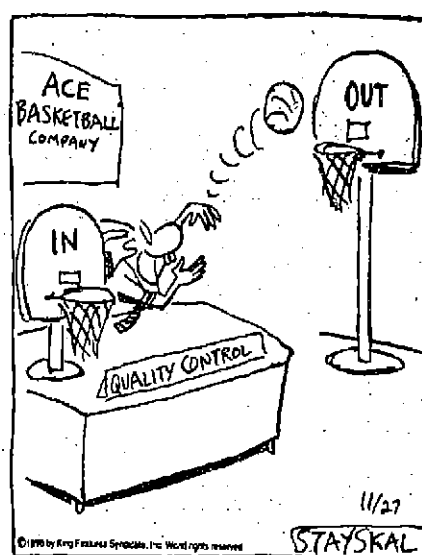
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

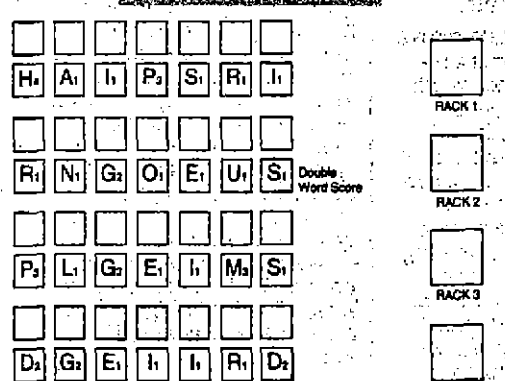
Broadway producer David Merrick is 86. Rock musician Charlie Benante (Anthrax) is 38. Rock musician Mike Bordin (Faith No More) is 36. Actor Fisher Stevens is 35. Actress Robin Givens is 34. Rapper Skoob (DAS EFX) is 28. Black Entertainment Television host Rachel is 26. Actor Jaleel White ("Family Matters") is 22.

I NEED HELP



Buffy the Vampire Slayer: the later years.

SCRABBLE



PAR SCORE 160-170 by JUDD FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and CSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 11-27-98 © 1998 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Blocks your view

Z I E B Y V S S T O N K H E B
Y W T R O L D R A Z Z I L B J
G E B Y W U R L P N K I I G
D B Z X R V O S L B Q L O M K
I G E C A A L Y P W L N E U F
S Q P N I L C J E B H I C F O
E C A S N M U L O C Y A N X R
V S K Y S C R A P E R T E D E
U M S D W O R C L S O R F P S
N O M K J D S R E T T U H S T
H G O F F E E S P I L C E C B

Thursday's untitled clue: OFFENSE
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's untitled clue hint: GROUND CLOUDS

Board: Columns Fence Skycraper
Blinds Crowds Forest Smog
Blizzard Curtain Rain Tail people
Clouds Eclipses Shelters

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For solution, see Classified.

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- Small settlements
 - One of a popular musical trio
 - Pumpkin-headed
 - Keats, to Shelley
 - Common fertilizer
 - First hit by the Police, 1979
 - Spoils
 - Wrongfully take
 - Seagoing letters
 - Get-up-and-go
 - Morales of "La Bamba"
 - Good name for a cook?
 - Of which A-Art was pub. in Jan. 1984
 - Comment to a backstabber?
 - Misappropriate public funds, say
 - Like certain opportunities
 - They're probably not good for what ails you
 - Quash
 - Canal zone?
 - Reb letters
 - At one time, at one time
 - Grade sch. class
 - Tight wrapper
 - Kirkuk's country
 - Men of the cloth
 - Less subdued
 - Still in rehearsals
 - Outstanding debt
 - Yapper
 - Diamond in the rough?
 - Work on a galley

DOWN

- Worshiper of 37-Down
- "Later!"
- Paws
- Elders' teachings
- Long E's, in Greek
- "Mambo Diablo" musician
- Play makeup
- Bois (Osage orange)
- Garlic, for one
- Get-up-and-go
- One way to vote
- Bert's fictional twin sister
- Kind of mill
- Verb followed?
- Joint-stock company owners
- Had a traditional dinner
- "Who's there?" response
- Like cliffs
- Hairline
- "Loyals of the King" lady
- Shortfall
- Sport—(popular vehicles)
- Popinjays
- Mother's, e.g.
- Man of parts
- See 1-Down
- Brief moments
- "Perry Mason" feature
- Pizza feature
- Jetty set
- Do—
- Heretofore
- Akron baseball player
- Alphabet quartet
- Field yield
- Pied's opposite
- A number of dental patients?
- Neighbor of Scorpius
- Ossuary

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BEADS SLAM BALS
AVIEW REPO EMIT
BARBARA ANN RAMA
ANSATE SEASIDER
THE BEACHBOYS
GREECE ORE
MOO HAUL URGES
CALIFORNIA GIRLS
STENO DONT USE
SAN GOATEE
HELPERHONDA
ENLISTEE ADDRESS
AJAN CAROLINENS
ROME ODOR FERAL
DYAD MYNA TROPE

ACES

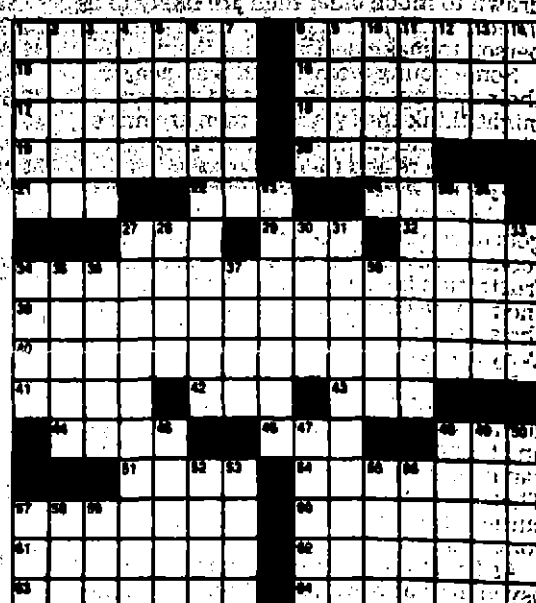
By Bobby Wolff

Today's South was a whiz at analytic post-mortem. "I make an overtrick if diamonds break 3-3," he said. "Lacking that, I have another chance if clubs are 3-3 and West must win the third club." What did he miss? South took East's spade jack with his queen and cashed his top diamonds, hoping for a favorable split. Unfortunately, the suit was 4-2, and South had to try clubs. He cashed dummy's top clubs and led a third, but his luck was even worse. East won, cashed two more minor-suit winners, and returned a spade, producing an ignominious three-trick set. Establishing dummy's clubs while keeping East off-lead was a wild dream: Even if clubs were 3-3, surely West would have jettisoned his top cards to avoid winning the third trick, unless he held Q-J-9. What chance did South overlook? He should have played safely for four diamond winners instead of five. At trick two, South should cross to dummy's clubs to lead a diamond. If East plays low, South inserts his eight, and he has his nine winners whenever diamonds are no worse than 4-2. If East plays his nine on the first diamond lead, South wins and leads a heart to dummy's ace to prevent another diamond. This time East must play low to prevent South from winning five diamonds, and South concedes a trick to West's jack. With his spade king safe from attack, South wins West's exit and can claim his nine tricks.

WEST		EAST	
♠ A 10 8 6 4	♠ J 7 3	♠ A 10 8 6 4	♠ J 7 3
♥ Q 8 5 4	♥ J 6	♥ Q 8 5 4	♥ J 6
♦ J 3	♦ 10 9 7 6	♦ J 3	♦ 10 9 7 6
♣ 7 3	♣ Q J 8 7 6 5	♣ 7 3	♣ Q J 8 7 6 5

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South
The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass 3 NT All pass
Opening lead: Spade ace

No. 1016



Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-800-420-5656 (95¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-800-7-ACROSS.